



LEEC

LOUISIANA ENVIRONMENTAL
EDUCATION COMMISSION

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A Weekly Compilation of Environmental Education News from Across Louisiana

LEEC NEWS

Highlights from Earth Day

Thank you to all who visited our LEEC table at Louisiana's Earth Day celebration. It was a beautiful day and our listeners were fascinated with the crane story. They enjoyed looking at the photos, maps, crane feathers, and especially the crane puppet and costume! The children also had fun measuring themselves up to the crane life-size poster.

[Click here](#) to see the crane puppet in the Baton Rouge Advocate!



LAGNIAPPE

Louisiana Coastal Concerns: BP & Beyond

What are viable strategies for addressing our coastal erosion in light of sea level rise, subsidence, hurricanes and oil spills? The Deepwater Horizon oil spill dumped nearly five million barrels of oil into the Gulf of Mexico, with Louisiana's coast receiving the greatest percentage of direct ecological damage. Three years later, a civil trial is taking place to determine the financial liability of BP and three other companies for the impact to the five Gulf states. Eighty percent of penalties paid by the responsible parties will go toward gulf coast restoration. But will it be money well-spent? The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) recently predicted that Louisiana's southeastern coast is likely to be under at least 4.3 feet of water by the end of the century. What does that mean for projects in Louisiana's Comprehensive Master Plan for a Sustainable Coast? What are viable strategies for addressing the state's coastal erosion in light of sea level rise, subsidence, hurricanes and oil spills? Louisiana Public Square explores these issues and more on "Louisiana Coastal Concerns: BP and Beyond" **Wednesday, April 24th at 7 p.m.** on LPB HD, and at 9 p.m. on WLAE-TV in New Orleans.

How Do You Teach?

How do environmental educators teach about native, introduced, and invasive species in a field setting? Take this voluntary, anonymous three-minute survey to share your own experiences in this work. Your participation will contribute to research being conducted by staff at the Merry Lea Environmental Learning Center of Goshen College. [Read more...](#)

National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan Released

Please see the links below to the key documents:

http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/national_ocean_policy_implementation_plan.pdf

http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/national_ocean_policy_ip_appendix.pdf

http://www.whitehouse.gov/administration/eop/ceq/Press_Releases/April_16_2013

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Beyond the Bay—A Teacher Workshop All About Barrier Islands

June 7-8, 2013, DeFelice Marine Center, Cocodrie, LA

This workshop is designed to expose teachers to some of Louisiana's coastal habitats through exploration of a barrier island and the organisms that rely on them. By participating, teachers will be immersed in some of the rich and diverse coastal environments of south Louisiana. Participants of this workshop will receive hands-on activities and lesson plans, content information, classroom resources, meals and lodging, and up to 12 CLUs. See attached PDF for more information and registration form, or contact Jennifer "Murt" Conover at mconover@lumcon.edu or 985-851-2860. Space is limited. Cost: \$25/teacher (non-refundable). **Registration Deadline: May 17, 2013**

WETSHOP—July 7-12, 2013

LDWF, LDNR, BTNEP and Sea Grant invite you to participate in this week-long, dynamic teacher workshop at the LDWF Marine Research Lab in Grand Isle, LA. This workshop allows teachers to work with educator/scientists to learn about Louisiana coastal wetlands, issues and history. The focus of the summer workshop is to create wetland stewards of teachers in order for them to educate co-workers and students in their home parishes about coastal land loss. Fifty-five professional contact hours will be accrued upon the completion of this wetland institute. Implementation of a six hour wetland dissemination workshop in your parish after completion of the summer workshop. Teacher stipend available for summer workshop and dissemination workshop during AY.

Workshop Highlights

Experience:

- Fisheries management; research trawling, seining
- Barrier islands and their role in coastal health
- Coastal Botany & Ornithology (visit Brown Pelican rookery)
- Water Quality Testing along fresh to salt water gradient
- Visit transitional Coastal Ecosystems
- Tour one of the largest oil ports in U.S.
- Visit coastal restoration site / Oil Spill impact sites
- Invasive Species (role in coastal land loss)

Receive:

Wonders of Wetlands Teacher Guidebook
Numerous classroom resources
Networking with wetland scientists
Up to 55 Professional Contact Hours

Application Deadline: May 20, 2013. Workshop is limited to 20 teacher. Registration fee is \$50. For more information, contact Angela Capello at (318) 748-6914, acapello@wlf.la.gov

Scholarships for New Science Teachers

Special career-enhancing experiences for middle and high school science teachers in their second through fifth year can be found through the New Science Teachers Academy, a yearlong professional development and mentoring program that offers unique support and resources. Hundreds of teachers will be chosen to participate in the 2013–2014 Academy and take advantage of **cost-free**, consistent online professional development activities along with face-to-face educational experiences. Simply apply and take control of your career. Principals should consider making this a priority for their newest science teachers.

The Academy provides each teacher with:

- Discipline-specific mentoring throughout the year
- [Web-based content development courses](#) and other resources
- [Membership](#) with full benefits in NSTA
- [2014 National Conference on Science Education](#) attendance, including air travel, lodging, meals, and registration fees

To find out more about the Academy and how to apply for a scholarship, visit www.nsta.org/academy. **Application Deadline: August 1**

Behavior Change Conservation Campaigns (India) - November 9-29, 2013

Travel to India for "Behavior Change Conservation Campaigns: A new tool for species conservation" where the classroom will be the jungles of central India and the subject, the Bengal tiger—up close and personal. Whether your concern is charismatic megafauna like the tiger or a particular environmental issue such as water pollution, education campaigns to change behavior can be powerful conservation tools. Come learn about these conservation campaigns with an emphasis on the Indian tiger. **Deadline: October 15, 2013** [Read more....](#)

WEBINARS

OneNOAA Science Seminars

All seminars are open to the public (unless otherwise indicated) and offer limited remote access on a first come first served basis. Please check the [OneNOAA Science Seminars](#) web page for the most updated seminar information or contact Hernan Garcia, Hernan.Garcia@noaa.gov.

[Improve Program Results by Linking Planning and Performance: Part 1 - Primer](#)

April 29, 2013; 12:00-13:00 Eastern Time; NOAA HQ SSMC-3 Library

[The 'New' Drought Risk Atlas from the National Drought Mitigation Center](#)

April 30, 2013; 13:00-14:00 Eastern Time; NOAA HQ SSMC-2 Room 14316

[Navigating Change in the Pacific Islands](#)

May 1, 2013; 13:00-14:00h Eastern Time; NOAA HQ [SSMC-4](#) Room 8150

[Linking Habitat and Benthic Species Distributions on the Continental Shelf of the Pacific Northwest](#)

May 2, 2013; 11:00-12:00 Pacific Time; NOAA [NWFS Auditorium](#) (Seattle, WA)

[A US Marine Mammal Conservation Initiative Through The IWC: Mitigating Whale Entanglement](#)

May 3, 2013; 12:00-13:00 Eastern Time; NOAA HQ [SSMC-3](#) Library

[The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management's Environmental Studies Program: Applied Science for Informed Decisions on Ocean Energy](#)

May 3, 2013; 13:00-14:30 Eastern Time; NOAA HQ SSMC-4 Room 1W611

National Girls Collaborative Project NGCP Impact

Informative webinar on NGCP's activities and nationwide impact: **May 2nd, 1:00-2:00 PM**

Louisiana STEM Girls Collaborative Project (LaSTEM GCP) Champions Board Recruitment

Webinar for an overview of the Louisiana collaborative and appeal for persons interested in serving as a volunteer Champions Board member: **May 23rd, 3:00-4:30 PM**

[Click here](#) to register. LaSTEM is actively seeking Louisiana residents, representing science, technology, engineering and math disciplines to serve as Champions Board members. The Champions Board works in partnership with LaSTEM's Leadership Team to give the project a balance of desirable expertise and regional representation. LaSTEM GCP is based upon a model developed by the National Girls Collaborative Project (NGCP), and replicated through a grant from the National Science Foundation. For questions, contact Lou Papai, Louisiana STEM Girls Collaborative Project Lead, at (318) 424-8662 or email LaSTEMGirlsCollabProject@gmail.com.

EVENTS

Climate Change and Sea Level Rise: Implications for New Orleans

Thursday, April 25, 6:00 PM, The Presbyter, Jackson Square

With disappearing natural defenses such as wetlands and barrier islands, New Orleans is particularly vulnerable to the effects of climate change. This science lecture by Dr. Virginia Burkett, Chief Scientist for Global Change USGS, explores how increases in hurricane intensity and mean sea level place the city and its environs at risk. The program is free and open to the public as part of the Louisiana's State Museum's "Coastal Conversations" series on environmental issues raised in the exhibition Living with Hurricanes: Katrina and Beyond. [Read more...](#)

Party for the Coast in New Orleans!

CRCL is very excited to invite you to Generations Hall in New Orleans on **June 13, 2013** for their first-ever *Party for the Coast!* This special event in one of New Orleans' most popular venues features entertainment from the Honey Island Swamp Band, live and silent auctions, unique prizes, free food and Abita products with your paid admission. All proceeds benefit CRCL and its mission of restoring and protecting Louisiana's coast. [Click here](#) for details and to purchase tickets!

YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES

Student Film Project Contest

Green Living Project is excited to accept student short films for the Spring 2013 Student Film Project! In five minutes or less, student short films should tell a unique and compelling story about a sustainability-related project. Winning films will be screened at GLP Films events throughout the year, and winners also receive gear and prizes up to \$1,000 in value! Contest is open to 6th grade through graduate level students. **Deadline: May 30, 2013** [Read more...](#)

AWARD NOMINATIONS

Nominate a Young Environmental Hero for a \$2,500 Barron Prize!

The Gloria Barron Prize for Young Heroes invites nominations for its 2013 awards. The Barron Prize, founded by author T.A. Barron, celebrates inspiring, public-spirited young people ages 8 to 18 who have made a significant positive difference to people or the planet. Ten winners each receive \$2,500 to support their service work or higher education. Half of each year's winners are chosen for their work to protect the environment. **Deadline: April 30, 2013** www.barronprize.org

RESOURCES

QR Codes in the Garden

Environmental educators are exploring how to use QR (Quick Response) Codes to expand horizons while enjoying nature outdoors. QR Codes can be placed on plant labels and outdoor signs to link to changeable online information including videos, text, images and sound. [Read more...](#) or view [EE Week 2013 Educator Toolkit](#).

Nothing Like Chocolate

Bullfrog Films has just released *Nothing Like Chocolate*, the story of Mott Green and the solar-powered Grenada Chocolate Company, a farmers' and chocolate-makers' co-op that makes organic chocolate from tree-to-bar. This film will make you think about the food you eat. <http://www.bullfrogfilms.com/catalog/nlc.html>

Hands on the Land

America's national forests, parks, wildlife refuges, and other public lands and waterways offer unique teaching and learning opportunities. Hands on the Land (HOL), a national interagency network of field classrooms, connect learners to lands and waterways all across America, making HOL "America's largest classroom." HOL program providers offer K-12 hands-on, place-based, conservation education experiences that support 21st century environmental literacy and educational goals. The interactive website supports a network of field sites to connect program providers and teachers with multiple agency resources. <http://www.handsontheland.org>

USFWS Schoolyard Habitat Restoration Guide

<http://www.fws.gov/cno/pdf/HabitatGuideColor.pdf> See attached PDF for more info about Earth Partnership for Schools.

Find out about wetland outreach activities including symposiums, conferences, meetings, educational opportunities, volunteer opportunities, & related support material at the **Louisiana Unified Coastal Community Calendar** at <http://lacoast.gov/calendar/>

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LouisianaEnvironmentalEducationCommission